

Appln. No.: 09/855,270
Amendment Dated: October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of: August 11, 2005

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Remarks/Arguments:

The pending claims are 1-6, 11-15, and 17-29. Claims 30-38 have been cancelled. Claim 19 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to their representative during telephone interviews on September 29, 2005, and October 5, 2005, discussing claims 21 and 24. The interviews discussed the fact that the Office Action did not state any ground of rejection of claim 21 and did not clearly identify the ground of rejection of claim 24. Applicants thank the Examiner for stating that a supplemental Office Action would be provided. Applicants are filing the present response because the interviews did not clarify whether Applicants would receive any additional time to respond and, if so, how much additional time would be granted.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 20, and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Murata (U.S. Patent No. 6,330,067). The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 recites, in part:

an operating unit operable to be coupled to the memory card reader, the modem, and the scanner, the operating unit being operable to select an image from one of the memory card, the communication line, and the scanner;
and

a printing unit for printing the selected image, according to an instruction from said operating unit.

Page 3 of the Office Action contends that Murata discloses an operation section 300 that meets the recitation of the operating unit in claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree. Operation section 300 is shown in Figure 1. Operation section 300 is provided with a PC card slot 89. (col. 6, lines 22-23). A memory card may be installed in PC card slot 89. (col. 8, lines 2, 4-5, 14-15). The memory card can be used to store a number of things. Among other functions, the memory card can store a scan job command file (col. 8, lines 14-15) and an image data file and an original image (col. 8, lines 16-18). Reading of the original is started when a user pushes a start button of operation section 300 after setting the original. (col. 8, lines 18-20). The image data stored in the memory card is printed from the memory card.

(col. 3, lines 26-28, 53-55). That is, the image data is first stored into the removable storage medium, the storage medium is then installed into card slot 89, and the stored image data is then printed. (col. 10, lines 30-35).

There is no disclosure in Murata that its operation section 300 can be coupled to the memory card reader and to a scanner. There is also no disclosure that operation section 300 can select an image from one of the memory card, a communication line coupled to a modem, and a scanner. Instead, Murata discloses that a CCU 82 is the element that transmits image data using modem 87. There is also no disclosure that a printing unit in Murata can print the image that is selected by operation section 300 according to an instruction from the operation section. As indicated above, the function of operation section 300 is very limited. Its only function is to start the reading of an original. (col. 8, lines 17-19). Accordingly, claim 1 and dependent claims 20 and 23 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Murata.

In paragraph 3, page 3 of the Office Action, claims 11-15, 17, 19, 25-29, and 33-38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Tomat (U.S. Patent No. 6,784,925). Although paragraph 3, page 3 of the Office Action does not refer to claim 24, paragraph 3, page 6 does refer to claim 24. Therefore, Applicants assume that the statement of the rejection in paragraph 3, page 3 had intended to reject claim 24 for the same reasons that the other claims were rejected in that paragraph. Based upon the telephone interviews referenced above, Applicants believe that the supplemental Office Action will clarify the basis of the rejection of claim 24. The rejection is respectfully traversed. The rejection of claims 33-38 is now moot because those claims have been cancelled. Claim 11 recites, in part:

A communication terminal comprising:

a memory card reader for loading and unloading a memory card and reading image data from said memory card.

The Office Action contends that computer system 1 shown in Figure 1 of Tomat may be considered a "communication terminal" recited in claim 11. Assuming, without conceding, that the Office Action is correct, computer system 1 includes display 2,

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keyboard 4, pointing device 5, fixed disk 6, and floppy disk drive 7. (col. 5, lines 43-61). Computer system 1 does not include, for example, network connection 9, World Wide Web connection 10, scanner 11, printer 12, and digital camera 14. (col. 5, line 62-col. 6, line 25).

A communication terminal recited in claim 11 includes a memory card reader. Page 4 of the Office Action contends that computer system 1 in Tomat comprises, in part, a memory card reader. Referring to col. 10, lines 23-34, the Office Action makes this contention based upon the fact that digital camera 14 reads images stored in the memory of a removable memory card. Column 10, line 28 discloses a memory card is in digital camera 14. However, as noted above, digital camera 14 is not part of computer system 1. It is separate and apart from computer system 1. As a result, the memory card in digital camera 14 is not part of computer system 1. Said differently, computer system 1 in Tomat does not include the memory card in digital camera 14. Since a rejection under Section 102 requires that a single reference must show all of the features recited in the claim, and since computer system 1 does not include the memory card in digital camera 14, claim 11, along with dependent claims 12-15, 17, 19, 24-29 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Tomat.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 30-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Tomat. This rejection is moot because these claims have been cancelled.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 2-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Murata in view of Yokoyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,166,826). Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1. As shown above, Murata does not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1. Yokoyama also does not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1. Even if the devices disclosed in Murata and Yokoyama were combined, the resulting apparatus would not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1 and claim 1 would not be subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Murata in view of Yokoyama. Accordingly, dependent claims 2-4 are not subject to the same rejection.

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In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claims 5, 6, and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Murata in view of Yokoyama and further in view of Tomat. Claims 5, 6 and 22 depend from claims 1 and 3. For the reasons discussed above, Murata and Yokoyama, either singly or combined, do not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1 and 3. Tomat also does not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1. Even if the devices disclosed in all those patents were combined, the resulting apparatus would not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1, along with dependent claims 3, 5, 6, and 22 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Murata in view of Yokoyama and further in view of Tomat.

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, claim 18 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tomat in view of Sakakibara (U.S. Patent No. 4,900,902). Claim 18 depends from claim 11. As shown above, Tomat does not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 11. Sakakibara also does not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 11. Even if the devices disclosed in Tomat and Sakakibara were combined, the combination would not disclose or suggest the apparatus recited in claim 11. Accordingly, neither claim 11 nor dependent claim 18 is subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tomat in view of Sakakibara.

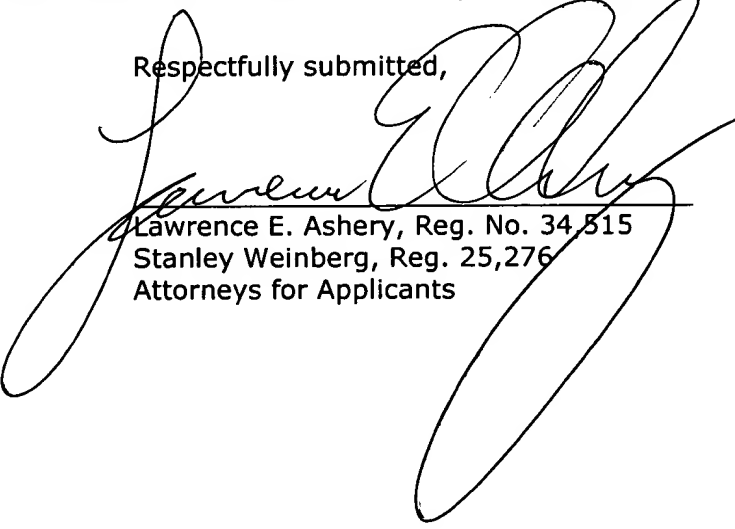
As noted above, the Office Action does not state any reason for the rejection of claim 21. Applicants are unable to glean from the Office Action the PTO's basis for the rejection of claim 21 and therefore the present response does not provide any argument regarding that claim. Based upon the telephone interviews referenced above, Applicants believe that the supplemental Office Action will state a basis for the rejection of claim 21.

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For all of the above reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1-6, 11-15, and 17-29 are now in condition for allowance and their allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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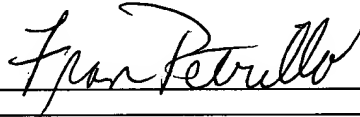
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